



070-3753 \$

PATENT

Case Docket No. KKF134.001APC

Date: September 25, 2001

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In re application of : Weh, et al.
App. No. : 09/445,945
Filed : April 10, 2000
For : FILLING CONNECTION FOR
A GAS CYLINDER VALVE
Examiner : J. Fox
Art Unit : 3753

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
marked attachments are being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in
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for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

9/25/01

(Date)

Thomas R. Arno, Reg. No. 40,490

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

(X) An extension of time to respond for 3 months is hereby requested.

Time Extension Fee:

one month (\$55 small entity)
 two months (\$195 small entity)
 three months (\$445 small entity)

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS FILED

CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total Claims 8 — 20		= 0 ×	\$9	= \$0
Independent Claims 1 — 3		= 0 ×	\$40	= \$0
If application has been amended to contain multiple dependent claim(s), then add				\$135 = \$0
Time Extension Fee				\$445
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT				\$445

(X) The present application qualifies for small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.

(X) Return prepaid postcard.

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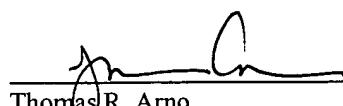
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- (X) A check in the amount of \$445 is enclosed.
- (X) Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.


Thomas R. Arno
Registration No. 40,490
Attorney of Record

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PATENT

10-4-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO MARCH 26, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2001, Applicants elect Invention II (i.e., Claims 30-37) for examination. Further, Applicants elect Species A. However, applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement as it is not understood which embodiments of the invention the Examiner is referring to as the plural flow path embodiment and the single flow path embodiment. Figure 1 illustrates a discharge flow path and a filling flow path that intersect, and become a common flow path near the gas bottle. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the application read on this embodiment, and it is not understood whether the Examiner would characterize this as a "single flow path" embodiment or a "plural flow path" embodiment. The applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify on what basis a distinction is made between single and multiple flow path embodiments.

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Filed : April 10, 2000

As indicated by the Examiner, Claims 30-33 and 35-37 are generic. Claim 34 is readable on Species A, which the applicants have elected.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 15-23, 25-26 and 29-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, stating that the specification fails to disclose how to make and/or use the two flow passage embodiment and the discharge valve actuated by the knob (handwheel). As to the two flow passage embodiment, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion, and as stated above, applicants do not understand the distinction being made by the Examiner between single and multiple flow path embodiments. Flow paths are clearly shown in Figure 1, and the Examiner's basis for concluding that some flow path embodiments are not sufficiently described is not clear.

Applicants also respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion regarding the discharge valve. For example, at page 3, line 5-7 of the last full paragraph, the specification describes that the handwheel operates a valve spool of the discharge connection between an open position and a closed position. The operation of the valve spool is further described at page 4, lines 1-15. Although details of a specific mechanical design of a valve and handwheel are not illustrated, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to construct a wide variety of suitable valve mechanisms which could be used with the present invention based on the functional characteristics and other teachings set forth in the specification as filed. Once the desired functional aspects of the valve are described, as is done in the present specification, details of valve construction and the large number of possible ways of coupling a valve to a handwheel need not be explained further to allow those of skill in the art to make and use the invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification enables one of ordinary skill in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

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Applicants have endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/25/01

By: TR
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